

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended): Method for the conversion of a cytosine base, in a nucleic acid to an uracil base comprising ~~the steps of:~~
  - a) providing a solution that contains a nucleic acid,
  - b) providing guanidinium hydrogen sulfite and preparing a solution comprising guanidinium and sulfite ions,
  - c) mixing the solutions from step a) and b),
  - d) incubating the solution obtained in step c) containing the nucleic acid and guanidinium and sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated,
  - e) incubating the deaminated nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated, and
  - f) isolating the deaminated nucleic acid.
2. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the concentration of guanidinium ions and sulfite ions is between 0.1 to 8 M, ~~preferably 2 to 8 M.~~
3. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 2~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pH of the solutions in step b) and c) is less than 7.0, ~~in the acidic range, preferably between 4.5 to 6.5.~~
4. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the incubation temperature in step d) and e) is between 0 °C ~~to and~~ 90 °C, ~~preferably between 18 °C to 90 °C.~~
5. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the incubation time in step d) is between 30 min ~~to and~~ 48 hours ~~preferably 24 hours.~~
6. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein step e) is performed by adding an alkaline solution or buffer, ~~preferably a solution containing a hydroxide, preferably sodium hydroxide, or a~~

solution containing ethanol, sodium chloride and sodium hydroxide, ~~preferably a solution containing 38% (volume/volume) ethanol, 100 mM NaCl, 200 mM NaOH.~~

7. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 6,~~ claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the incubation temperature in step e) is between 0 °C ~~to~~ and 90 °C, ~~preferably between 18 °C to 90 °C.~~
8. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the incubation time in step e) is between 5 min ~~to~~ and 60 min.
- 9 – 12 Canceled.
13. (currently amended): A kit containing guanidinium hydrogen sulfite and plasticware for performing a reaction in which a cytosine base in a nucleic acid is converted to a uracil base.
- 14 Canceled.